



Corporate Social Responsibility and the U.S. Department of State



Women affected by AIDS share survival stories at the Reach Out clinic outside Kampala, Uganda. The clinic received money through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a major partnership for the global AIDS coordinator. © AP Photo.

*“Government and businesses have mutual responsibilities;
and...if we fulfill these obligations together, it benefits us all.”*

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

The U.S. Department of State's strong commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) is exemplified in a comprehensive approach to providing support and guidance on areas of responsible corporate conduct. In line with the U.S. secretary of state's economic statecraft agenda to harness global economic tools to advance U.S. foreign policy goals, individual bureaus and offices play a leading role on particular initiatives, while ensuring effective

coordination and partnerships with one another, U.S. embassies, business, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

Good Corporate Citizenship and Human Rights

There is a strong linkage between economic prosperity, respect for human rights and good corporate citizenship. **The Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs** (EB) provides guidance and support for U.S. companies to undertake socially

responsible corporate activities and ethical business practices that promote sustainable development. The bureau also engages with business, trade unions and civil society to adopt and implement exemplary corporate policies. In much of this work, interaction with the private sector is done under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and with EB's U.S. national contact point for the

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Above, left: Schoolchildren in Guatemala have access to clean water through a project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The U.S. Department of State and USAID provide access to safe water and sanitation through the U.S. Water Partnership. © USAID. Above, right: Nomadic peoples throughout Afghanistan have access to more than 7,000 solar lanterns through USAID's Afghanistan Clean Energy Program. Providing access to secure, reliable and clean energy is a major initiative for the Bureau of Energy Resources. © Robert Foster, Winrock International.

guidelines. The department promotes and recognizes exemplary CSR activities of businesses through the annual U.S. Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence, the ACE.

The **Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor's** (DRL's) offices of **International Labor Affairs, Internet Freedom, and Business and Human Rights** work with companies, civil society—including unions and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)—and governments to implement policies that respect human and labor rights and maximize positive contributions to global development. The Business and Human Rights team focuses on engaging stakeholders on practical challenges at the intersection of business and human rights and on leading U.S. government efforts to implement the United Nations (U.N.) Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The team's work includes bolstering emerging norms on business and human rights; demonstrating the value of credible multistakeholder systems; encouraging companies to implement human rights and internationally recognized labor rights at every stage of their supply chain; and contributing solutions to urgent policy challenges

that hinder corporate respect for human rights. EB's Intellectual Property team works to protect intellectual property in ways compatible with human rights.

The **Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) works to prevent and stop human trafficking through partnerships and engagement with business leaders, coalitions and investor groups. TIP does this by raising awareness and advancing implementation of the Luxor Guidelines, which focus on corporate policy, strategic planning, public awareness, supply chain tracing, government advocacy and transparency to reduce forced labor in supply chains.

Labor and Supply Chains

EB, in cooperation with DRL and others, coordinates the U.S. Department of State's participation in the Kimberly Process to stem the flow of conflict diamonds and address traceability in supply chains. DRL promotes labor rights throughout the supply chain, including labor law enforcement, due diligence, strengthening legal advocacy, expanding livelihood opportunities and advancing multistakeholder approaches. TIP partners with Slavery Footprint to provide online tools



A whale slips back into the water off the coast of Massachusetts. Protecting the world's oceans is a priority for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. © cmiper/Flickr.

to initiate marketplace action and ongoing dialogues between individual consumers and producers about modern slavery in supply chains.

Energy and the Environment

Sector-specific CSR initiatives center on responsible resource management, energy efficiency and climate change. The **Bureau of Energy Resources** (ENR) leads the U.S. Department of State's efforts to ensure that diplomatic relationships advance U.S. interests in access to secure, reliable and ever-cleaner sources of energy. It promotes good governance and transparency in energy-sector management and access to commercially viable and environmentally sustainable energy for the 1.3 billion people currently without energy services. ENR supports the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, an emerging global standard for revenue transparency, in addition to other governance initiatives.

The **Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs** (OES) advances U.S. policy goals in climate change, science and technology, health, water, environmental protection, biodiversity, oceans and polar issues, fisheries and space policy. OES pursues CSR through initiatives involving the U.S. Water Partnership; partnerships with the World Environment Center and corporations designed to help small business suppliers reduce pollution and emissions and improve their energy efficiency; and the Chlor-alkali Partnership to encourage conversion to nonmercury processes and promote sound storage options. OES works to stimulate private-sector efforts to help meet countries' commitments under the U.N. Framework Convention for Climate Change's Copenhagen Accord.



A mother kisses her daughter outside a clinic sponsored by USAID Indonesia's Maternal and Child Health Program. Both USAID and the Office of Global Women's Issues promote women's and children's access to health care.

Anti-Corruption

The U.S. Department of State recognizes reducing corruption is inherently linked to corporate and societal interests, particularly CSR. The **Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)** promotes anti-corruption internationally and supports CSR by fostering clean business practices, engaging the business community in anti-corruption efforts and promoting a level playing field. INL supports adoption and implementation of multilateral standards, including the U.N. Convention Against Corruption, and the President's Kleptocracy Strategy, including Denial of Safe Haven. EB represents the U.S. Department of State in the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions and also targets corruption through the Domestic Finance for Development initiative.

Health and Social Welfare

The State Department also partners with the private sector to tackle a number of significant global challenges, including the spread of HIV/AIDS and youth unemployment. The **Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC)** coordinates U.S. government efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, including implementing partnerships that combine public and private sector resources to accomplish HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment goals.

The **Office of Global Youth Issues (J/GYI)** coordinates youth policy departmentwide to empower young people around the world as economic and civic actors and works with private sector and civil society stakeholders to address global youth unemployment by encouraging youth-focused strategies in hiring and retention, skills train-

ing, job creation through entrepreneurship and youth-focused CSR programs.

Partnerships and Exchanges

The **Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA)** works to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries through educational and cultural exchanges. ECA facilitates public-private partnerships that strengthen economic growth and opportunity, technology and youth, benefiting local communities in 165 countries.

The **Secretary of State's Office of Global Partnership Initiatives (S/GPI)** forges strategic partnerships with businesses, philanthropies, foundations, universities, faith communities, diaspora groups and individuals to further the department's CSR goals and objectives.

The **Secretary of State's Office of Global Women's Issues (S/GWI)** supports the economic, social, legal and political empowerment of women and girls, including mitigating the impact of violence against women, addressing access to health and education, food security and global problems such as climate change, and ensuring that women are integrated in post-conflict reconstruction and development.